



27 February 2005

## ***A Message From The Commander***

Greetings to the families and friends of our service members deployed to the Horn of Africa! As we travel farther into this year, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa concluded another month with resounding success. During this month we completed a number of pivotal projects within our area of responsibility including medical and veterinarian civic action programs, socials, and well drilling operations as a means of assisting the citizens of Djibouti and Kenya. Your Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen took part in actions that will reap numerous benefits for the people. The highlight event remains the medical and veterinarian civil action program held in Kenya that immunized over 21,000 animals and 3,000 people. It is with this presence that the task force continues to win the hearts and minds of the people within the Horn of Africa.

Remaining at the center of many events and operations this month was the theme, "Progressive regional partnership of nations founded on mutual desire for cooperative security and stability". In keeping with this theme, one event brought together senior enlisted members from the French, German, and U.S. Armed Services for a social. The event improved relations between all countries, opened numerous doors for the future, and fostered a better understanding between the different services. Both the French and Germans, quite overwhelmed by the hospitality, followed with their very own senior enlisted socials. Continuing with multinational relations, U.S. and French forces trained together exercising their amphibious and convoy capabilities. In the latter part of the month, U.S. and French forces came together for the second time, to focus on weapons familiarization and firing.

A vast majority of quality men and women, who served Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa meritoriously and left nothing in reserve, departed this month. These Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen arrive home to their families carrying their heads high and proud. We wish all of these service members and their families well during this period of emotional transition. We are truly blessed with the arrival of yet another outstanding group of service members to replace them. I envision the task force continuing in our esteemed tradition of excellence and look forward to the bright future. God bless, and I wish everyone the best.

Take Care,



**SAMUEL T. HELLAND**  
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commander, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

